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1-30-1981

## Black Heritage Stamp Series: Whitney Moore Young

United States Postal Service. Stamp Division

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*Issue Date:* January 30, 1981  
*First Day City:* New York, New York  
*Designer:* Jerry Pinkney  
 Croton-on-Hudson, New York  
*Modeler:* Clarence Holbert  
*Press:* Gravure  
*Colors:* Light green, ochre, gray, red, blue  
 and black  
*Image Area:* .84 x 1.44 inches or  
 21.33 x 36.57 millimeters  
*Plate Numbers:* Six  
*Stamps Per Pane:* 50  
*Selva:* © U.S. Postal Service  
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 ® Mr. ZIP

# 15-Cent Whitney Moore Young Commemorative Stamp

A 15-cent commemorative stamp honoring Whitney Moore Young will be issued January 30, 1981 in New York City.

Mr. Young, an American educator, social work administrator and civil rights leader was born in Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky, on July 31, 1921. He received his B.S. degree at Kentucky State College in 1941, and his M.A. in social work from the University of Minnesota in 1947. Young taught at the Nebraska School of Social Work, Creighton University and the Atlanta University School of Social Work, where he was dean from 1954 to 1961.

A prominent lecturer and author, Young was President of the National Association of Social Workers and the National Conference on Social Welfare. He served on the boards and advisory committees of the Rockefeller Foundation, The Urban Coalition, and The Urban Institute, and on seven Presidential Commissions during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. From 1961 until his death, he served as the Executive Director of the Urban League.

Young was one of 20 Americans selected in 1969 by President Johnson to receive the "Medal of Freedom," the nation's highest civilian award.

This stamp is the fourth issue in the Black Heritage USA Series, which recognizes contributions of Black Americans to the growth and development of the United States. The series began in 1978 with a stamp honoring Harriet Tubman and continued with stamps honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., and Benjamin Banneker.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE







# AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES



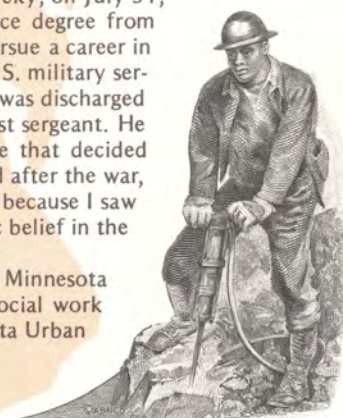
## Whitney Moore Young

Whitney Moore Young, Jr. was executive director of the National Urban League from October 1, 1961 until his death in 1970. He was a dedicated and active civil rights leader, and worked ceaselessly to champion the cause of racial equality, and to battle the evils of ignorance and prejudice in our society.

Young is the author of *To Be Equal* (1964) and *Beyond Racism* (1969), as well as a syndicated national newspaper column. He was awarded the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, by President Johnson in 1969.

He was born in Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky, on July 31, 1921. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Kentucky State College, intending to pursue a career in medicine. However, he enlisted in the U.S. military service and was sent to Europe in 1944. He was discharged from military service with the rank of first sergeant. He later said, "It was my Army experience that decided me on getting into the race relations field after the war, not just because I saw the problems, but because I saw the potentials too. I grew up with a basic belief in the inherent decency of human beings."

Young enrolled in the University of Minnesota and was awarded a Master's Degree in social work in 1947. He joined the St. Paul, Minnesota Urban



League, then the Omaha Urban League, later became dean of the Atlanta School of Social Work, and then began his work in the National Urban League. He was president of the National Association of Social Workers, as well, at the time of his death. He died at the age of 49 in a drowning incident while attending an annual African-American dialogue on relations between the continents in Lagos, Nigeria.

The stamp honoring Mr. Young and his work was issued in New York City January 30, 1981, in observance of Black History Month, which began February 1. The stamp is the fourth issue in the Black Heritage USA series — all of which are designed by the artist Jerry Pinkney of Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

The top engraving was used on a Zambia Industrial Mining Corporation certificate in 1970. The middle engraving is by the artist Lavin, and appeared on the Anta Corporation Stock Certificate in 1978. The bottom engraving was designed by Vincent Aderente, and appeared on an American Bank Note Stock Certificate in 1934.







UNITED STATES  
POSTAL SERVICE 1980







*Whitney Moore Young  
Black Heritage Series*



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

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## Whitney Moore Young

### Black Heritage Series

**First Day of Issue:** *January 30, 1981*

**First Day City:** *New York, New York, headquarters of the  
National Urban League*

**Stamp Designer:** *Jerry Pinkney  
Croton-on-Hudson, New York*

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“A doer, not a talker,” was the way President Nixon characterized Whitney Moore Young, the civil rights leader who is honored on this U.S. commemorative stamp.

Born in Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky on July 31, 1921, Young began his long association with the National Urban League in the 1940's, while studying for a master's degree at the University of Minnesota. In 1961, he was named the League's Executive Director.

Originally founded as a social agency to help rural southern blacks adjust to life in northern industrial cities, the Urban League, under Whitney Moore Young, became a

major force in the civil rights movement. Young helped organize the historic 1963 March on Washington and called for a “domestic Marshall Plan” to eliminate poverty and racial inequality.

Young used legal means and the mobilization of black voters to fight discrimination and further civil rights. While usually shunning mass protest demonstrations and civil disobedience campaigns, Young nevertheless warned that violence was inevitable unless major reforms were enacted. Some of his proposals were embodied in the federal “affirmative action” program and the war on poverty.

As a key link between the black and white communities, Young maintained close contacts with corporate and government leaders and served as an advisor to President Johnson. Through these connections the Urban League received numerous government and private grants for black job training, education and housing programs.